

**Question for written answer E-000150/2023
to the Council**

Rule 138

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Subject: Council's views on Article 16(3) of the Horizon Europe Regulation

Article 16(3) of the Horizon Europe Regulation states that 'the scope of association of each third country to the Programme shall take into account an analysis of the benefits for the Union and the objective of driving economic growth in the Union through innovation'. By specifically mentioning the need for the analysis to cover economic growth through innovation, the co-legislators emphasised that specific benefit.

1. In the Council's view, is Pillar II of Horizon Europe an essential and integral part of the Programme's contribution to achieving economic growth through innovation in Europe?
2. How does the Council interpret the words 'the objective of driving economic growth in the Union through innovation' in Article 16(3) when deciding on negotiation directives, and in particular the preferred scope of the association arrangements?

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